From: Simmons, Denise
To: Evan Crane
Subject: Re: HP Resolution
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 6:25:40 PM

Dear Mr. Crane,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of passionate discussion in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Evan Crane <evcrane@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 3:49 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: HP Resolution

Dear Ms. Simmons,

I am writing concerning the resolution proposed by Mass Against HP to the City Council set to be debated on April 23.

I was shocked when I heard recently of the proposed resolution. As I'm sure you're aware, Mass Against HP introduced this resolution as part of the broader BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanction) movement. This movement is, in the words of its leaders, dedicated to the destruction of Israel, the only Jewish nation in the world. Politicians from across the political spectrum, even those most critical of Israel's policies, have condemned BDS, including Senators Elizabeth Warren of MA and Bernie Sanders of VT.

Furthermore, BDS does not help Palestinians. In fact, 500 Palestinian workers lost their jobs when SodaStream, a popular manufacturer of home seltzer machines, recently closed their West Bank factory following pressure from the BDS movement.

Despite being only 70 years old and surrounded by hostile neighbors, Israel is a worldwide leader in innovation. The country produces the most startups per capita in the world, and has introduced life-changing advances in high-tech, biotech, agriculture, and other industries. MIT, which has put Cambridge on the map as a hub of research and innovation, has strong connections with Israel and boasts many leading professors from Israel.

I love living in Cambridge because of its diversity. While the Jewish community here is relatively small, I have always felt safe showing my Jewish identity in public, and I proudly wear a *yarmulke* on my head. This resolution, if accepted, would make myself and the others Jews who call Cambridge home feel unsafe and unwanted.

I urge you to reject this hateful resolution.

Sincerely,

Evan Crane